



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**

**Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

991 Marine Dr., The Presidio  
San Francisco, CA 94129

December 17, 2008

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Daniel J. Basta  
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

**FROM:** Maria Brown  
Gulf of the Farallones NMS Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council Resolution

On December 11, 2008 the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a Resolution, requesting the Sanctuary Superintendent communicate to the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries the critical need to reinstate the previous longstanding legislative Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) moratorium and requesting that the Director of the Sanctuary Program call upon the incoming Administration of President Obama to promptly reinstate the executive OCS deferrals.

Attachments

cc: Bill Douros



# Sanctuary Advisory Council

## GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

### Member/Alternate

#### **At-Large Marin/Sonoma**

Dominique Richard/ vacant

#### **At-Large San Francisco/San Mateo**

Brenda Donald/ Pat Conroy

#### **California EPA**

Secretary Linda Adams/ Cindy Tuck

#### **California Resources Agency**

Brian Baird/ Amy Boone

#### **Conservation**

Bob Wilson/ vacant

#### **Conservation**

Richard Charter/ Bruce Bowser

#### **Education**

Bob Breen/ Dorris Welch

#### **Maritime Activities/Commercial**

Barbara Emley/ Peter Grenell

#### **Maritime Activities/Recreational**

Mick Menigoz/ Marc Gorelick

#### **National Park Service**

Brian O'Neill/ Chris Powell

#### **Research**

John Largier/ Jonathan Stern

#### **United States Coast Guard**

CAPT Thomas Cullen/ LTJG Brittany Steward

National Marine Sanctuary Reps:

#### **Channel Islands**

Chris Mobley/ Mike Murray

#### **Cordell Bank**

Dan Howard/ Rowena Forest

#### **Monterey Bay**

Paul Michel/ Karen Grimmer

#### **Gulf of the Farallones**

#### **Superintendent**

Maria Brown

Officers:

#### **Chair**

Richard Charter

#### **Vice Chair**

Barbara Emley

#### **Secretary**

Bob Wilson

*Whereas*, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is charged with advising the Sanctuary Superintendent about matters affecting the stewardship and sustainability of the marine environment; and

*Whereas*, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council considers threats to our region's world-class commercial and sport fisheries, high concentrations of avian resources, aggregations of marine mammals, and other sensitive marine and intertidal living resources from routine toxic discharges and accidental oil spills associated with proposed offshore drilling to be among the greatest dangers to the survival of California's rich marine environment and coastal-dependent economy; and

*Whereas*, President George W. Bush has rescinded his father's longstanding executive Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) deferrals, removing longstanding protection from federal offshore oil and gas leasing that was not otherwise set to expire until 2012; and

*Whereas*, Congress, under White House threat of a presidential veto of a "continuing resolution" funding measure essential to continuance of U.S. government operations past October 1, 2008, was also forced to allow 27 years of continuous bipartisan legislative OCS moratorium protection to lapse, thereby opening the entire Pacific and Atlantic coastlines to federal offshore oil and gas leasing; and

*Whereas*, the combined result of these actions by the White House and the Congress currently leaves federal waters beyond three miles from shore along the entire California coast without any protection from offshore oil and gas leasing, with the exception of waters within the boundaries of our national marine sanctuaries; and

*Whereas*, seismic airgun exploration, exploratory drilling, and development and transportation activities associated with offshore oil and gas leasing and extraction each produce region wide adverse environmental impacts which will damage living resources in nearby National Marine Sanctuary waters; and

Therefore, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council hereby respectfully requests that the Director of the Sanctuary Program call upon the incoming Administration of President Obama to promptly reinstate the executive Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) deferrals first put in place by former President George Herbert Walker Bush in 1991 and renewed by former President Clinton in 1998; and



Jan Roletto



GFNMS



Richard Allen



Bob Wilson

Therefore be it resolved, that the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council also calls upon our Sanctuary Superintendent to communicate to the Director of the Sanctuary Program the critical need to immediately reimpose the previous longstanding legislative OCS moratorium to reinstate protection for the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines; and

Therefore be it further resolved, that this resolution is directed to be transmitted to Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta in a timely fashion.

Adopted this 11th day of December 2008, by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.